

### In the Specification

On page 4, line 34, please replace the equation shown with  $m_i = \sum_{j=1}^n s_{ij}r_{ij}$ . The

paragraph of the specification should now read as follows:

The generation of branch metrics is well known in the art, and are generally calculated as

$$m_i = \sum_{j=1}^n s_{ij}r_{ij}$$

where

$n=1, 2, 3, \dots$  is the number of the encoded symbols at the output of the encoder corresponding to one input bit;

$s_{ij} = + / - 1$ , is the  $j^{\text{th}}$  symbol of the output of the convolutional encoder for the  $i^{\text{th}}$  state (or branch)

$r_{ij}$  is the  $j^{\text{th}}$  symbol of the received sequence for the  $i^{\text{th}}$  branch (or state) of the convolutional decoder and

$i$  represents the  $i^{\text{th}}$  state (or branch) of the decoder.

Respectfully Submitted,  
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